

thizer with the Korean cause, as was shown by his message to Congress, February 23, 1916, approving the publication of the diplomatic correspondence between Korea and America at the close of the Russo-Japanese War.

It may be said incidentally that our worthy leader, Dr. Syngman Rhee, received his Ph. D. at Princeton, under the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, and is a warm friend of the President. At the time of the marriage of President Wilson's daughter to Secretary McAdoo, Dr. Rhee was the only person, besides the governor general, in the Hawaiian Islands who received an invitation from the White House—a distinct recognition of the worth and scholarship of Dr. Rhee.

Some faint-hearted persons among us may say, "What if we don't get anything after making all the efforts you suggest?" That is not an essential matter. Our part is to do our best at the call of duty. It is no disgrace to try and to fail, but it is a disgrace not to try. Even if we fail to obtain autonomy for our country, yet we shall have gained in arousing a sympathetic interest among the statesmen of the world in our cause, and in creating a public opinion in the West that the Korean people, too, have the passion for political freedom and that they live under an alien rule unwillingly. If this sentiment is created in the West, Japan can no longer say to the civilized world, as she has been saying during all these years, that she is ruling Korea not for the benefit of the Japanese, but for the sake of the Koreans themselves, that the Korean people are happy and contented under Japanese rule, and that they do not want a change.

If the above result is to be accomplished, unity of thought and action of *all* Koreans is indispensable, so that our spokesman will speak the sentiment that burns in the breast of every Korean patriot, and have the backing of every dollar in the possession of the Korean people. Now is the time to show your colors. Each must do his part. Let us remember our ancient motto:

BETTER PERISH AS A JADE THAN BE SAVED AS
A BRICK.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY CHUNG.

Department of Economics Northwestern University

Evanston, Illinois, November 11, 1918.

My Fellow Countrymen:

The war has come to an end. What now?

Everyone recognizes the fact that the present hour is the most significant period in the world's history—a time when old political conceptions are about to give way to new democratic ideals, and the particular purposes of individual states will be replaced by the common will of mankind.

The underlying principle of the war, as has been often stated by the Allied statesmen of Europe, is the recognition of the aspirations of every people, large or small, to govern their own affairs by their own will and choice. This abstract principle was put into concrete form when President Wilson, in his message to Congress, April 2, 1917, said that the United States is fighting "for democracy, for the rights of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal domination of right by such a concert of free people as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free."

This, certainly, is the supreme moment for small and subject nationalities. Realizing the importance of this opportunity, the Poles, the Czecho-Slovaks, and, in fact, every subject race in Europe are making a supreme effort to pave the way to present their respective causes at the coming Peace Conference, where political and territorial readjustments will be made on the basis of nationality.

The cause of Korea, too, should be presented at this Conference.

If we remain silent at this time, it will be an eloquent argument for the Japanese that the Korean people are satisfied under the Japanese rule and that they do not want a change. "In governing Korea, we are observing the principle of recognizing

national aspirations," the Japanese will say at the Peace Conference, "because the Korean people are satisfied under our rule and they do not want a change."

Therefore, if we, too, have a passion for freedom and for the inalienable right of political liberty, this is the time to assert ourselves. We must not depend on others to do our work for us, while we ourselves remain inactive. The League of Small and Subject Nationalities may do some good for subject races in general, but it cannot present our cause in particular. The Poles are not remaining inactive, depending on other nations to win their independence for them, although they have far better reason to do so than we, as the independence of Poland was promised by the Allied nations at the very beginning of the war. The Poles have their provisional government at Paris which negotiates with the Allied governments. The Polish armies have fought on every battle front of the war. The Czecho-Slovaks, too, have organized and fought side by side with the Allies. Their provisional government at Paris is recognized by the Allied governments, and their leader, Professor Thomas G. Masaryk, who is commonly known as the Moses of the Czecho-Slovaks, is in Washington, D. C., conducting their affairs and negotiating with the American Government. If we, too, have a desire to present our cause at the Allied Peace Conference, we must act, act for ourselves, and act now.

If we are to participate at all in this coming settlement of the destiny of nations, we need two things—men and money.

Let us choose as our leader a man who will represent not only the Koreans in America and in Hawaii, but the entire Korean race. The qualifications of this leader must be three: (1) He must be a Korean patriot in the truest sense of the word. (2) He must have a perfect command of English in speaking and writing. This is absolutely essential, as our spokesman must be able to present our cause effectively both in speech and in writing. If he has a good command of French as well as English, it will be so much the better. (3) He must be a great scholar in the western sense, not in the eastern, knowing the history and contemporary politics of Europe and America, and understanding the psychology of the West. Thus he will be able to comprehend

the situation, and hold his own with the astute diplomats of the Allied nations. If he fulfills these qualifications, let us choose him as our leader and spokesman, no matter where he is from, and regardless of his affiliations with any organization. After we have elected him, let him pick out his lieutenants—one, or two, or as many as he needs in his work.

When we have chosen our leader, the next step is to back him with money. To do this we should organize in every community in which there are Koreans a temporary committee to collect funds for this purpose. Let every son of Korea pledge to give five or ten dollars, or as much as he is able. The money thus collected should be sent to the central committee, who will send the needed amount from time to time to our leader. This central committee, as well as the local committee, should be strictly accountable for every dollar it receives. In case any money is left over, it should be equitably distributed among the contributors.

The place and the duration of the Peace Conference are still matters of speculation. It is rumored in Allied diplomatic circles that the Conference will not last longer than six months. As to the place, the first choice of the various nations is as follows: The United States, Washington, D. C.; Great Britain and the German States, The Hague; France, Versailles; Belgium, Brussels; Italy, Geneva. As the second choice, the Allied nations unanimously agree on Washington. So it is possible that Washington may be chosen as the meeting place. In case the Peace Conference is held at Washington, it is the consensus of opinion among the Allied diplomats that President Wilson will preside, as it is generally granted that he is the most influential statesman of the Allies and the leader of political thought in the western democracies. The very fact that his fourteen principles of peace, enunciated before Congress, on January 8, 1918, are accepted by the belligerent nations on both sides as the basis of settlement proves his personal ascendancy and his unrivaled political influence. If President Wilson is the presiding officer at the Peace Conference, the opportunity for presenting our cause will be better than ever. The President is not only an ardent advocate of the rights of small and subject nations, but also a warm sympa-